

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 10159 091018Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T TEL AVIV 10159

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MILI, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BOUTROS

REF: (A) BEIRUT 4564, (B) BEIRUT 4548, (C) TEL AVIV 10008
(D) STATE 200865

1. IN AUGUST 7 NEGOTIATIONS WITH WEIZMAN'S AIDE, TEHILA,
ON TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BOUTROS THERE WAS
NO REPEAT NO DISCUSSION OF WHICH PARTIES ARE BEING REFERRED
TO IN PARA THREE B. WE LEFT THAT PHRASE ALONE BECAUSE WE
WERE SURE THAT WE COULD REACH NO AGREEMENT WITH THE GOI ON
DEFINITION OF PARTIES WHICH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, PRESENT WORDING OF THAT
SENTENCE REFLECTS CHANGE PUT FORWARD BY ISRAELIS AND ACCEPTED
BY U.S. FROM ORIGINAL PARKER DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR PARA THREE B
WHICH HAD READ : "THE QUESTION OF MAJOR HADDAD'S STATUS WILL
BE SET ASIDE FOR THE TIME BEING. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THIS
ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT THROUGH DIRECT
CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED." ADDRESSEES WILL
SEE THAT ISRAELI CHANGE STRENGTHENS OBLIGATION ON PART
OF THOSE WHO AGREE TO ITS FORMULATION TO RESOLVE THE
HADDAD PROBLEM THROUGH MUTUAL AGREEMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 10159 091018Z

2. NONETHELESS, IT WAS OUR ASSUMPTION THROUGHOUT THAT
BOTH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT AND THE ISRAELIS WOULD
INTERPRET 3.B IN THEIR OWN WAY. THE ONLY THING COMPLETELY
CLEAR TO US ABOUT THE ISREALI INTERPRETATION IS THAT THEY
ASSUME HADDAD IS ONE OF THE "PARTIES CONCERNED," AND HIS
STATUS ULTIMATELY MUST BE RESOLVED DIRECTLY WITH
HIM. FROM HERE WE DO NOT SEE WHO WOULD FORCE THE

LEBANESE INTO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ISRAELIS OR ANYONE
ELSE ON THIS SUBJECT (PARA TWO, SENTENCE TWO, REFTEL A).
IN OUR JUDGMENT, AMBASSADOR PARKER IS TAKING THE RIGHT
TACK. IF WE GET INTO AN ARGUMENT WITH THE GOL AND
ISRAEL ON WHICH PARTIES ARE REFERRED TO IN PARA THREE B,
WHAT KIND OF DIRECT CONTACTS WOULD OCCUR BETWEEN THEM,
WHAT MUTUAL AGREEMENT MEANS, ETC., UNITS OF THE LAF
BATTALION WILL NEVER GET TO TIBNIN. WE MAY HAVE
A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION WITH THE TWO SIDES LATER ABOUT
WHAT THE LANGUAGE OF 3.B MEANS, BUT IF WE CAN GET THE
LAF TO TIBNIN WE CAN WORRY ABOUT THAT LATER.
LEWIS

SECRET

NNN

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